

NIS COMMITTEE MEETING NO. 65

18 April 1950

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1. The following were present:

Dr. Appleton	State
Mr. Lydman	State
Lt. Col. Kiel	Army
Cdr. Howell	Navy
Lt. Cdr. Nutt	Navy
25X1A9a	Air Force
	CIA (Acting Chairman)

2. The Acting Chairman brought to the attention of the committee the illustrations appearing in Department of the Army Pamphlet No. 30-2, "The Soviet Army". He pointed out that the publication contains photographs and black and white sketches of types which it might be well to use in NIS Chapters VIII (Armed Forces). Other chapters of the NIS might also use to advantage illustrations of these types. For the following reasons there would need to be consultation between contributors and D/NIS before deciding upon specific types to be used:

a. There would have to be a limit to the amount of this material used.

b. It would have to be assured that sketches to be used are of good quality.

Members were asked to consult regarding this matter with the working level in their respective agencies to determine the feasibility of this proposal and, if found feasible, to arrange for the implementation thereof.

3. It was announced that, according to information received from OSI, the moribund NIS Chapter VII (Scientific) Subcommittee has been revived for the purpose of continuing currently established production. OSI has promised D/NIS a report of action taken regarding NIS Chapter VII by the Scientific Intelligence Committee at its meeting on 14 April 1950. The Acting Chairman promised to relay this report, when received, to the committee.

4. It was announced that a formal statement of approval of the revised Standard Instructions for Chapter II (Military Geography) has been received from Army but not from State, Navy, or Air Force. It was

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pointed out that requests have been received for working copies of these instructions but that D/NIS will not have them reproduced until formal statements of approval have been received from all agencies. The State and Air Force members announced the approval of their agencies and the Navy member announced the tentative approval of his agency. State, Navy, and Air Force members undertook to formalize this approval in writing at the earliest practicable date.

5. The Navy member distributed copies of a proposal regarding the revised Standard Instructions for Chapter VI (Economic). This proposal is to be studied and brought up for discussion at the next meeting.

6. D/NIS (CIA) comment on the second draft of the Revised NIS Production Schedule for FY 1950 was as follows:

a. The draft shows a total of 34 sections for April, 67 for May, and 73 for June, or a total of 174 sections for the last quarter of FY 1950. This total is 15 sections fewer than the total proposed by the first draft and 104 fewer than the total shown on the original schedule for April, May, and June 1950. The second draft still shows an unbalanced schedule since it concentrates an unduly large number of schedulings in the last month of the quarter.

b. The schedules for Chapters II (Military Geography) and III (Transportation and Telecommunications) still appear not to have been formulated with adequate consideration of the production phases of the individual sections. In this connection, if the production phases shown on production reports are not, in fact, accurate, these phases should be corrected; otherwise, the production reports are misleading both to the producing agencies themselves and to CIA.

c. In the view of CIA, the proposed schedule is still unrealistic as well as unbalanced. For example, it still calls for 34 sections in April. Only 5 sections have been received in April to date and there remain in the month of April only 9 working days, including this date of the meeting. It is considered extremely doubtful that 29 sections will be forthcoming in 9 days. The probability is that a number of sections scheduled for April will be deferred to May and so displace a number of sections scheduled for that month. These displaced sections plus a number of sections normally deferred from the unusually high total of 67 originally scheduled for May will then, in turn, be deferred to June. There are already 73 sections scheduled for that month. This, in itself, seems an impossible schedule since the maximum number of sections received in D/NIS in any one month to date is 48 and the average per month for the first 9 months of FY 1950 is 32.

d. The improvement shown by the second draft over the first, while existent in some degree, is so meager as to be disappointing. However, since it is believed that a revised FY 1950 schedule is prerequisite to the formulation of a schedule for FY 1951, and since the last quarter of FY 1950 is rapidly running out, it is felt that no useful purpose will be served by attempting a third draft of the revised schedule for FY 1950. CIA, therefore, reluctantly assents to the second draft.

e. It is the opinion of CIA that unrealistic and unbalanced production schedules are not only misleading and therefore worthless if not dangerous but are also a major cause of the large percentage of poor quality contributions received in D/NIS so far. Producing personnel are capable of exerting only a certain total amount of effort. This total effort can be expended in producing a reasonable number of sections reasonably well by reasonable deadlines or it can be expended in producing an unreasonable number of sections poorly by unreasonable deadlines. Hence, CIA feels that especial care must be taken to make the production schedule for FY 1951 more nearly realistic and balanced than the revised schedule for FY 1950. Among other things, it will be necessary to reschedule for FY 1951 defections from FY 1950 and, hence, to revise the FY 1951 schedule in July 1950. This revision can be facilitated by making light original schedulings of advance production for the early months of FY 1951.

7. It was reported that final first drafts for the FY 1951 production schedule for Chapters II (Military Geography) and IX (Map and Chart Appraisal) have been received in D/NIS. The State member distributed copies of a preliminary first draft for this schedule for Chapters IV (Sociological), V (Political), and VI (Economic) and stated that the final first draft should be forthcoming by the end of the current week. The Army member stated that the schedule for Chapters III (Transportation and Telecommunications) and VIII (Armed Forces) are being worked on and should be forthcoming shortly.

8. It was proposed that the "minutes" of each NIS Committee meeting as prepared by D/NIS be brought up for discussion and approval at the following meeting. The Acting Chairman commented as follows:

a. The term "minutes" is, in fact, a misnomer for the document entitled, "NIS COMMITTEE MEETING NO. \_\_\_", in that it in no wise purports to be a stenographic record of proceedings, does not follow the usually accepted form for minutes, and serves a purpose somewhat different from that commonly served by minutes.

b. The document is intended to be a memorandum for the record for the internal use of CIA. Copies of it were not distributed to members of the NIS Committee until December 1948. Then, at the request of the members, it was agreed that each member would receive, on a confidential and personal basis, one copy of the D/NIS memorandum for the record which he would use to check the memorandum for the record or other memoranda prepared for his own agency. See Paragraph 2, NIS COMMITTEE MEETING NO. 17, 20 December 1948, and Paragraph 2, NIS COMMITTEE MEETING NO. 44, 18 October 1949

c. The content of the document falls into three general categories:

(1) Decisions of the NIS Committee. Statements of these decisions usually begin with the words "It was decided that", "It was the consensus", "The committee approved", or similar appropriate phraseology. These decisions, in effect, constitute the statutory law of the NIS Program.

(2) Reports of the committee members on various subjects.

(3) Statements of the views of the Chairman in his capacity as NIS Coordinator.

Should any member question the correctness of statements in the first and second of the above categories (8c(1) and (2) above), or should he believe that certain of such statements have been omitted, he may consult D/NIS with a view to having corrections, additions, or both noted in the next issue of the document. Statements in the third of the above categories are obviously not subject to correction by IAC members.

d. In view of the provisions of Paragraph 8c above, D/NIS sees no useful purpose to be served by discussing the D/NIS memorandum for the record at NIS Committee meetings and does not concur in so doing.

9. The next meeting was scheduled for 1000 hours, Tuesday, 25 April, at CIA.

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Distribution:

NIS Committee (4)  
Mr. Earman (JIG)

AD/ORE  
Chief, D/Ma  
✓D/NIS (4)

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